



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership

The Fiscal Year 1999 Appropriations Act, Public Law 105-181, provides \$25 million for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of the Act is to protect the lives of law enforcement officers by helping states and units of local and tribal governments equip their law enforcement officers with armor vests.

An applicant may request funds to help purchase one bulletproof vest per law enforcement officer per fiscal year. The chief executive officer (CEO) of each eligible jurisdiction will coordinate vest needs among all law enforcement agencies in that jurisdiction. Federal payment will cover up to 50 percent of each jurisdiction's total costs, including taxes and shipping and handling charges.

Eligibility

Jurisdictions eligible to apply for this program are general purpose units of local government (such as cities, counties, and municipalities), federally recognized Indian tribes, the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Applications must be submitted by the applicant's CEO.

How To Participate

The entire application and payment process for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program will occur through the Internet. Beginning mid-March 1999, eligible applicants will be able to register at the program's Web site (<http://vests.ojp.gov>).

While online, applicants can read about vest models that meet National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards for armor vests and link to vest vendors. After a jurisdiction's CEO has determined the number and types of vests to order, he or she will make a request for federal funds online. The system will accept one request for funds in the fiscal year for each jurisdiction, and only one vest per officer will be permitted per fiscal year.

After a jurisdiction receives the approved vests, the CEO will verify receipt and request federal payment through the Internet. Funds will be deposited directly into the jurisdiction's bank account.



The Bulletproof Vest Partnership comprises the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, the Office of Justice Programs, the National Institute of Justice, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Special Program Requirements

- ❑ At least half of the funds disbursed through this program must go to units of government serving fewer than 100,000 residents.
- ❑ Each applicant must match at least 50 percent of the cost of its order. Only federally recognized tribal governments may use other federal funds for their portion of the match.
- ❑ “Law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of a state, unit of local government, or federally recognized Indian tribe authorized by law or by a government agency to prevent or investigate any violation of criminal law or to supervise sentenced criminal offenders. This definition includes, but is not limited to, police officers, sheriff’s deputies, correctional officers, parole and probation agents, and pretrial services officers.

- ❑ “Armor vest” means body armor, no less than Type I, that has been tested through the voluntary compliance testing program operated by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center of NIJ and found to meet the NIJ Standard 0101.03, or any subsequent revision.

For More Information

For more information about the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, go to <http://vests.ojp.gov> or contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1–800–421–6770 or 202–307–1480. Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

FS 000238
January 1999

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance

Washington, DC 20531

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID DOJ/BJA PERMIT NO. G-91
